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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/714,583 | 11/13/2003 | Gordon Clark | 2316.1816US01 | 1697 |

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| EXAMINER |
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CARPIO, IVAN HERNAN

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2841

DATE MAILED: 05/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/714,583

Applicant(s)

CLARK ET AL.

Examiner

Ivan H. Carpio

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 July 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/19/04 4/12/05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7 and 13-14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Applicant's argument with respect to claim 8 is that Welch does not disclose a flexible latch formed on the housing side, examiner respectfully disagrees. Claim 8 reads "a flexible latch formed on the housing side", examiner reads housing side to be the side where a housing member is located or will be located, looking at figure 1 we note that the flexible latch while connected to the face plate is on the housing side since the housing will be located on that side region perpendicular to the face plate.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harker and Welch.

With respect to claim 8, Welch discloses a patch panel module comprising: a face plate including at least one front opening (Fig. 1 elements 36, 38), a module card having a front connector (Fig. 1 elements 70, 72) and a rear connector (Fig.1 elements 74, 76), the front connector being positioned adjacent to the front opening of the

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housing, the module card being secured to the housing by a retaining structure, the retaining structure including: a flexible latch formed on the housing side (Fig. 1 elements 22, 26) ; and a hole formed in the module card (Fig. 1 element 68)., wherein the flexible latch engages the hole of the module card to provide a snap-fit connection between the housing and the module card a module card (Fig. 1 elements 28, 30), however, Welch does not disclose expressly a housing including a face plate and a housing side, the face plate and housing side being oriented generally perpendicular to one another.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harris (US 5546273) in view of Welch (US 5218519).

With respect to claim 1 Harris teaches a patch panel module, comprising: a) a housing (Fig. 8, element 160) having a generally L-shaped a construction, the housing including a face plate (Fig. 8, element 166) having a front opening; and b) a module card (Fig. 9, element 164) attached to the housing, the module card including a front connector (Fig. 8, element 192) positioned adjacent to the front opening, and a rear connector (Fig. 9, element 182) located at an end of the module card opposite the front connector. Harris does not teach that the module is attached to the housing by a snap-fit connection. Welch teaches a snap fit connection (Fig.1, elements 22 and 26). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Welch's snap fit connection with Harris' patch panel module for the purpose of easily securing the module card to the housing with out the need for extra tools.

With respect to claim 2 and with all the limitations of claim 1, Harris teaches a securing arrangement for securing the module to a patch panel chassis, the securing arrangement including at least a first flexible tab (Fig.9, element 184).

With respect to claim 3 and with all the limitations of claim 1, Harris teaches that the L-shaped construction is defined by the face plate and a housing side (Fig. 8 and 9, element 162), the face plate being oriented generally perpendicular to the module card and the housing side being oriented generally parallel to the module card.

With respect to claim 4 and with all the limitations of claim 3, Harris teaches that the housing further includes a handle (Fig 8, element 194) extending outward from the housing side.

With respect to claim 5 and with all the limitations of claim 3, Harris teaches an aperture formed between the face plate and the housing side for viewing an LED (Fig. 8, element 196) positioned on the module card.

With respect to claim 6 and with all the limitations of claim 2, Harris teaches that the securing arrangement for securing the module to a patch panel chassis further includes a second flexible tab (Fig. 9, element 184).

With respect to claim 7 and with all the limitations of claim 3, Welch teaches that the snap-fit connection includes at least one latch (Fig. 1, element 22 and 26) formed on the housing side of the L-shaped construction, the latch being arranged to engage a hole (Fig. 1, element 62 and 68) formed in the module card.

With respect to claim 8 Harris teaches a patch panel module, comprising: a) a housing including a face plate (Fig. 9, element 166) and a housing side (Fig. 9, element

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162), the face plate and housing side being oriented generally perpendicular to one another, the face plate including at least one front opening; b) a module card having a front connector (Fig. 8, element 192) and a rear connector (Fig. 9, element 182), the front connector being positioned adjacent to the front opening of the housing, the module card being secured to the housing by a retaining structure. Harris doesn't teach that the retaining structure includes: i) a flexible latch formed on the housing side; and ii) a hole formed in the module card; iii) wherein the flexible latch engages the hole of the module card to provide a snap-fit connection between the housing and the module card. Welch teaches a retainer structure containing i) a flexible latch formed on the housing side (Fig. 1, elements 22 and 26); and ii) a hole (Fig. 1, element 62 and 68) formed in the module card; iii) wherein the flexible latch engages the hole of the module card to provide a snap-fit connection between the housing and the module card. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Welch's snap fit connection with Harris' patch panel module for the purpose of easily securing the module card to the housing with out the need for extra tools.

With respect to claim 9 and with all the limitations of claim 8, Harris teaches a securing arrangement for securing the module to a patch panel chassis, the securing arrangement including at least a first flexible tab (Fig. 9, element 184) extending from the housing.

With respect to claim 10 and with all the limitations of claim 8, Harris teaches that the housing further includes a handle (Fig 8, element 194) extending outward from the housing side.

With respect to claim 11 and with all the limitations of claim 8, Harris teaches an aperture formed between the face plate and the housing side for viewing an LED (Fig. 8, element 196) positioned on the module card.

With respect to claim 12 and with all the limitations of claim 9, Harris teaches that the securing arrangement for securing the module to a patch panel chassis further includes a second flexible tab (Fig. 9, element 184).

Regarding method claims 13-16 one skilled in the art would necessarily perform the recited instruction steps for assembling a patch panel module rejected above.

With respect to claims 17 and 18 along with all the limitations of claims 13 and 1 respectively, Harris teaches all of the limitations except does not specifically teach that the one-piece housing is a molded housing. Molding is well known in the art and is used in many aspects for both plastics and metals. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the housing, taught by Harris, be a molded housing because the manufacturing process for molding is well known and efficient.

With respect to claim 19 and with all the limitations of claim 8, Harris teaches that the housing is a one-piece housing (Fig. 9), including the face plate and the housing side.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ivan H. Carpio whose telephone number is 571-272-8396. The examiner can normally be reached on M-R 6:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kammie Cuneo can be reached on 571-272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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